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CHOLERA MORBUS.

ADDRESS

FROM THE

Clergy of the City of Exeter.

WE, the Clergy of this city, who are entrusted by God with the care of your most important, your eternal interests, solemnly come forward on this trying occasion, to offer you our best advice. We trust that the attention, which you have hitherto given us, will not be withholden from us now; we hope that many, before thoughtless and irreligious, will now “consider their ways.” It is, indeed, a time for serious reflection: and while, through the kind care of the Medical Faculty, you have so many useful hints and directions for your temporal safety, you would be wrong, you would be inexcusable, in not listening to *us*, who “watch for your souls, as they that must give account.” When the mortal body returns to the dust of the earth, the immortal Spirit “returns unto God who gave it.” May not this great and awful change be soon coming upon you? It is your wisdom to stand prepared. While we trust that there are many among you, who, in accordance with their Baptismal Faith

and Vow, are living, by God's grace, a sober, righteous, and godly life, and who, therefore, are always prepared to meet their Heavenly Father, we think it our bounden duty to call to Repentance those among our people, who have "forsaken the guide of their youth, and forgotten the Covenant of their God." We fear lest the expected calamity should fall upon our city, and find such persons in a state quite unprepared to meet it. As Ministers of the Gospel of Peace, we therefore implore them to seek for themselves that pardon of sin and that everlasting life, which CHRIST promises to all, who "*truly repent, and unfeignedly believe His holy Gospel.*" Let them "seek the LORD while He is to be found, and call upon Him while He is near:" for if they pray to Him in humility, in sorrow for the past, and in sincere purpose of heart to serve him for the future, He will in no wise cast them out.

We wish to lead the attention of such persons to a religious truth, which is always instructive, but particularly so now. Observe on this occasion how *Obedience to God's commands brings a present reward*, and how *Sin is its own punishment*. Who are most likely to fall victims to this fatal disorder?—Persons addicted to drinking spirituous liquors, and to indulgence in irregular and sensual habits! What houses are most exposed to this infection?—Those where *cleanliness*, both in the houses themselves, and in the persons of the occupiers, are least attended to! Surely then, if every higher motive fail, the consideration of *present* interest should determine you to keep your body in *soberness, temperance, and chastity*. It has been observed that a calm and even temper, such as arises from a right trust in God,

renders those who are blessed with it less liable to take infection. But can they, who live in sin, and are distracted by various bad passions, have any such composure of mind, or any peace with God? So true it is, that "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of *the life that now is* and of that which is to come." Act then on this conviction. "Fear God and keep His Commandments:" and thus secure to yourselves and your families health and contentment in this life, and, through the unmerited grace of God, eternal happiness in the life to come.

We trust, dear Brethren, that you will accept from us in good part these brief admonitions. We pray God to prepare you for any trials and afflictions, which He may be pleased to bring upon you; and to make this and every other Visitation of His conducive to your happiness and salvation.

Exeter, 12th November, 1831.

*This was drawn up by me at the
command of the Bishop Dr. Phillpotts
and under his directions.*

